Phasing out of subsidies on kerosene/LPG

*516. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the subsidy given by Government on each LPG cylinder and kerosene per litre;

(b) the annual subsidy budget in this regard;

(c) whether Government propose to phase out the subsidy in near future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) The present estimated average subsidy on domestic LPG and PDS kerosene is around Rs. 90 per cylinder and Rs. 3.00 per liter respectively.

(b) A provision of Rs. 4495.80 crore has been made in the budget estimates of 2002-2003 on this account.

(c) and (d) The subsidy on domestic LPG and PDS kerosene is proposed to be phased out in the next three to five years.

Deposits with commercial banks and post offices

*517. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a heavy shortfall in deposits with the commercial banks and post offices in the country;

(b) if so, the extent to which decline has been noticed;

(c) the reasons for such a shortfall; and

(d) the corrective measures being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Deposits of scheduled commercial banks and gross collections in

small saving schemes have not recorded any decline. On the contrary, the bank deposits/gross collections of post offices during the last three years have increased as indicated below:—

Rs. in crore

Year	Deposits in scheduled commercial banks	Year	Gross collections in small savings schemes
1998-99	7,14,025	1998-99	62050
1999-2000	8,13,344	1999-2000	75435
2000-01	9,62,618	2000-01 (Prov)	88548
2000-02 (upto Mar. 29,2002)	11,23,416	2001-02(RE)	90000

(c) Since deposits have increased, question does not arise.

(d) As reflected in the above table, there has been absolutely no decline in bank deposits or gross collections of post offices and therefore under the circumstances, no special/additional corrective measures appear to be warranted.

Direct flight from Hyderabad to Iran

*518. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal of direct flight from Hyderabad to Tehran in Iran is under Government's consideration;

(b) if so, by when this flight is likely to start; and

(c) whether details in this regard have been finalised?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.